

## **Final Essay of This I Believe**

What are your sentiments when you fail? I believe that failing after putting a large effort into something is equivalent to a spear stabbing my heart, breaking it into pieces. However, the remorse felt after not even bothering to put in any effort is more immense than sheer failure. Theodore Roosevelt once said “It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed”. I could not agree more. I believe in putting in my best in everything I do. Therefore, if I fail, I can say “At least I tried”.

I believe that it is truly hard to fail.

Failure crushes me; it smashes my wildest dreams. Failure leaves me in the dark world of disappointment feeling despondent. Failure is like an impenetrable cobweb; spinning around my dreams so I cannot see the light of hope from above. However, amid the loss of strength to carry on, the consolation that I have tried my best gives me back my confidence. Putting in my best is an achievement, although smaller than actual success. It is only through realising this that I see the light at the end of the tunnel of darkness.

In secondary one, I tried for the school choir. I decided to try my best to succeed although I doubted that my voice was melodious. I sang my lines with as much gusto as I could muster. Minutes later, I walked out happily. I had been asked if I would put the choir as my first choice on my co-curricular activities option form. I had heard that this was analogous with being asked to the second audition round. Sadly, I was surprisingly rejected.

I was crestfallen, but realised that while my voice was not the most melodious, it was good enough to be almost considered for the second audition round. This consoled me as this was an achievement gained through trying my best. I decided to carry on with life. Maybe one day, I would be able to get into the choir but for now, at least I had tried.

I believe that the remorse of not trying at all hurts more than doing so.

Remorse keeps me wondering: What if I had done this or done that? Remorse keeps my dreams alive but they will never come true because what I want to do is over. The agony of failing disappears after realising that I have done my utmost. However, remorse lasts forever. If I had not tried for the choir, the outcome of doing so would always remain unknown.

Lastly, I believe in Theodore Roosevelt's wisdom.

His words are always in my mind. Thus, I believe in living by them, through constantly striving for success. I believe in telling myself that I have tried my best when I fall into the chasm of failure. His words are my mantra. I do not just live by them. I am inspired by them. I take them with me whenever I go.

(499 Words)